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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re application of:

Cowsert, Baker, McNeil, Freier, Sasmor, Brooks, Ohashi, Wyatt, Borchers and Vickers

Serial No.: 09/067,638

Group Art Unit: 1631

Filed: April 28, 1998

Examiner: A. Marschel

#2016
Plunkett
10/27/01

For: **IDENTIFICATION OF GENETIC TARGETS FOR MODULATION BY
OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND GENERATION OF OLIGONUCLEOTIDES
FOR GENE MODULATION**

EXPRESS MAIL INFORMATION

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO: EL650276605US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: October 17, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to the Office Action mailed July 18, 2001 in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicants request that the application be amended as follows.

In the Claims:

Please delete claim 72 and amend claims 68-71 and 73-82 to read as follows:

68. (Amended) A system of associated components for preparing a set of oligonucleotides that possess at least one property comprising:

a computer network that prepares a virtual library of oligonucleotides targeted to a selected nucleic acid and generates synthesis instructions in computer manipulable form for each of said oligonucleotides in said virtual library, wherein said computer network reduces the members of said virtual library of oligonucleotides by one or more of i) a process of selection based on target accessibility to said selected nucleic acid, ii) a process of selection based on uniform distribution of